



**For immediate release:
Nov. 4, 2013**

**Contact: Kelly Foreman
(859) 622-8552**

KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL GETS NEW DIRECTOR

RICHMOND, Ky. – A new executive director has been chosen to lead the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council. Leslie Gannon, a former Kentucky State Police lieutenant colonel, began serving in her new position today, Nov. 4, 2013, at the KLEC office in Richmond.

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Council governs training for all of the state's law enforcement. The council is charged with certifying and approving law enforcement training schools, training instructors and curriculum, as well as administering the Peace Officer Professional Standards' certification process and monitoring the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund.

"Kentucky is very fortunate that, following on the heels of former KLEC Director Larry Ball, we're able to lure someone to this role who not only possesses extensive law enforcement experience, but who also has worked with KLEC in the past and has a full understanding of its duties and responsibilities," said Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown.

Gannon is no stranger to KLEC membership. Prior to her retirement from KSP in July 2013, Gannon served as the KSP representative on the board for nearly seven years, and also as chair of the POPS committee.

"I was able to see a lot of the activities of law enforcement as a whole, not just from the one agency I was representing," Gannon said of her service. "I gained a greater perspective, the value of law enforcement and how far we've come, especially since POPS. The council has played such an important part in that."

Gannon began her KSP career in 1990 as a trooper with Pikeville Post 9, where she also later served as a detective. She also served the KSP academy as a sergeant and assistant commander. In 2001, she was promoted to commander of the state's central forensic lab in Frankfort, where she served until taking over as commander of the training academy. Gannon served for three years as Post 2 commander in Madisonville before returning to where it all started as post commander in Pikeville. She retired as the administration division's lieutenant colonel at KSP headquarters in Frankfort.

Gannon was drawn to the position because of her first-hand experience with the council and what it stands for, she said. After 23 years in law enforcement, Gannon wanted to continue serving the state's law enforcement in a new way.

"Commissioner John Bizzack commented recently in a *Kentucky Law Enforcement* magazine article that every agency is local, and that's true," Gannon said. "We all work together for the same goals – how can we become better than we were yesterday?"

Bizzack said Gannon will be an asset to the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council.

"The vast knowledge Leslie Gannon has gained through her years of service to both KLEC and KSP will serve her well as she endeavors to advance the professionalism of the greater law enforcement community," Bizzack said.

###